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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,225	11/29/2001	Osamu Kobayashi	YPO0031	1325
7590 07/07/2004 Michael S. Gzybowski Buzel Long 350 South Main Street Suite 300 Ann Arbor, MI 48104			EXAMINER MULCAHY, PETER D	
			ART UNIT 1713	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 07/07/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/980,225	KOBAYASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Peter D. Mulcahy	1713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,6 and 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6 and 11-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this

Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hori et al., U.S. Patent 5,914,195 taken in view of Miyata, U.S. Patent 4,558,102.

The Hori patent shows thermoplastic resin composite compositions having incorporated therein the chlorinated polyethylene and vinyl chloride polymers. This polymeric composite is utilized in combination with additional additives and is cured. See specifically columns 4-6. Column 6 at lines 8+ advises the incorporation of fillers to the chlorinated polyethylene elastomeric composition. The only difference seen between this disclosure and the instantly claimed invention is the incorporation of the specifically claimed coupling agent.

The Miyata patent also shows halogen containing rubber compositions which have incorporated therein vinyl chloride polymers and chlorinated polyethylene polymers. This patent is

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specific as to the incorporation of a hydrotalcite filler and identifies coupling agents as being either epoxy or methacryloxy coupling agents. See specifically column 4 line 65 - column 5 line 4.

The Examiner maintains that it would be prima facie obvious to combine the coupling agents and fillers of Miyata with the composites as shown in Hori as requisite the language at column 6 lines 10-25 where the hydrotalcite fillers are expressly referenced. As such, applicants' claims are rendered prima facie obvious.

Applicants should clarify the status of the claims as presented. Specifically claim 4 is identified as being withdrawn where the remarks state that the claim is cancelled. Applicants should further cancel the withdrawn claims which re directed to the non-elected invention. This would clarify the status of the claims for future prosecution.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter D. Mulcahy, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1107. The examiner can normally be reached during regular business hours.

The fax telephone number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on

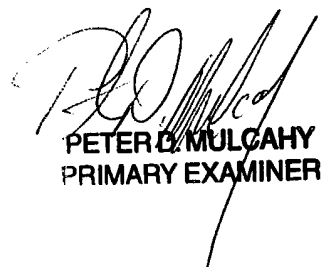
Serial No. 09/980,225

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access to the private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

P. Mulcahy:cdc
June 30, 2004



PETER D. MULCAHY
PRIMARY EXAMINER